

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7111

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Paola Martinez upon her first-place finish in the 2023 U.S. Open Judo Championship.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through their unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as extraordinary athletes of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Paola Martinez, who recently received first-place honors for her weight and age class in the U.S. Open Judo Championship; and

WHEREAS, coached by Morristown Police Department Chief Roger Overholt, Ms. Martinez competed in this year's championship with little professional training aside from the countless hours she and Chief Overholt dedicated to ensuring her proficiency; and

WHEREAS, a Lakeway resident of nine years, Paola Martinez first began practicing Judo at the age of twelve; she devoted the next ten years to the sport, until being sidelined by an elbow injury at the age of twenty-two; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Martinez took up Judo again after moving to Tennessee with her husband, Ismael Concha; encouraged by her sensei, Chief Overholt, she attended a formal Judo training camp in Florida two years ago and received a place representing a team based in Arlington, Virginia, known as Kogaion Academy; and

WHEREAS, the Kogaion Academy is part of the U.S. Judo Federation, which allows Ms. Martinez to compete nationally; and

WHEREAS, after relentless training and dedication to the art of Judo, Paola Martinez achieved a second-place, silver-medal finish in the U.S. Judo Open Championship in 2022 at the veteran level for under fifty-seven kilograms; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Martinez competed this year in the Open Judo Championship solo with Chief Overholt as her coach, winning gold in her category; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished professional, Paola Martinez recently became a state-certified Judo coach in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we recognize this outstanding athlete for her championship performance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Paola Martinez on her first-place finish in the 2023 U.S. Open Judo Championship and wish her much continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.